



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights

- DHS approved NEPAs for the Antelope, Ellis, KONA, and Sierra sites that are part of IJ-2 of the PSIC grant. Purchase orders for infrastructure build out at these sites have already been sent to Sabre Towers.
- NEPA approval also was received for the generator at the Wirth Ranch site.
- Brian Sewell, IM Project Manager, is finalizing the SOWs and ancillary documents for the last mile hop National Guard project. The RFP is expected soon.

## PSSB Weekly Highlights

- PSSB is still working on grant opportunities that the Montana Board of Crime Control just announced. More information about the Recovery Act JAG grants is available at this link:

<http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/Grants/RFP/RFP.asp>.

## Eastern Tier Meeting Valuable

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Members of the Eastern Tier consortium held their regular meeting on Wed., June 24 in Glendive. Sheriff Frank Edwards was introduced as the new Garfield County representative to the consortium. Dennis Palmer, Richland County, gave a comprehensive presentation on the SCIP Implementation workshop he attended on June 8 as well as the IM Project Directors (IMPD) meeting on June 9. Dennis emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with the 9-1-1 Program and PSAP budgets for equipment grant matches. Dennis also explained that Kevin Bruski did an excellent job of reporting the Eastern Tier build-out plans at the IMPD meeting.

Dennis emphasized the importance of obtaining fleet mapping inventory information by the Aug. 11 deadline. He and Butch Renders, Richland County, gave an in-depth presentation using an overhead projector to illustrate the radio inventory sheet and how to enter the service mode of a radio to obtain the necessary information. He stressed that radio shop records may not be up to date, which is why it is important to touch each radio individually to obtain accurate, up-to-date information. The IM Project will be paying for the new firmware upgrade and needs to obtain a good estimate of how many radios need to be upgraded to trunking.

Members discussed the Second Master Controller and learned that the Dawson County Commissioners do not want to accept financial responsibility for the

Belle Prairie site, but they are open to the idea of future ownership once issues related to sustainability costs are resolved. Work continues on obtaining an appraisal and having an architect produce the shelter plans for the site.

During a recent meeting with Mid-Rivers Communications, participants discussed cost effective methods of collaboration. The IM and Mid-Rivers can look for joint opportunities to work together to achieve greater efficiency. For example, in some cases it may make sense to extend fiber instead of building a microwave link. Mid-Rivers has provided fiber network maps to the ETIC. It was suggested that ETIC provide Mid-Rivers with information on site locations and ask for cost proposals for various routes, such as connectivity between Government Hill and Forsyth.

ETIC members were brought up to date on the status of several sites. A motion was approved to acquire and develop the Brown Divide and Needmore tower sites. The next ETIC meeting is set for Wed., July 22, at the Dawson County Courthouse Community Room, 207 W. Bell, in Glendive.

## Big Sky 11 Consortium Approved New Bylaws

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Members of the Big Sky 11 Consortium approved new bylaws at their Thurs., June 25 meeting. This accomplishment was significant because it expanded membership to include a representative from the City of Billings, and gave the consortium's Governing Board the power to add additional consortium members by a majority vote. However, additional representatives will still need to be designated by the individual's County Board of Commissioners, Tribal Chair, City Council, or agency department head.

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The revised bylaws now specify that a quorum is a simple majority of the membership. Previously, a quorum had been 9 members, or two-thirds of the membership. The new bylaws also incorporate language from the Interlocal Agreement and dispensed with extraneous references to the State Administrative Agency (SAA) and other entities. Several members collaborated to update the bylaws, and Project Director Floyd Fisher thanked them. A copy of the bylaws is available at the following link: [http://interop.mt.gov/content/docs/big\\_sky\\_11/Big\\_Sky\\_11\\_Bylaws\\_adopied\\_2009\\_06\\_25.doc](http://interop.mt.gov/content/docs/big_sky_11/Big_Sky_11_Bylaws_adopied_2009_06_25.doc).

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Mike Linder, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, gave a report on the recent IM Technical Committee meeting and emphasized the importance of getting radio inventories completed in time for Floyd Fisher to take them to the August 11 IM Project Directors meeting.

The NEPAs for the Coburn, Dunn, Greenough, and Shane sites have been approved. All Statements of Work have been sent to Sabre Tower for bids, and were expected this week. Once returned, a decision can be made about whether local procurement can be used. Members also discussed the Cooney, Hathaway and Hysham sites as well as progress on the second master controller.

The project management contract with Sherry Evans, Northrop Grumman, is being phased out, so she will be leaving the IM Project within a few months. She has been working closely with Tom Smith, IM Project Manager, who is becoming familiar with the projects in Big Sky 11.

In other business, the consortium appointed new members for its technical committee. The next Big Sky 11 consortium meeting is on Thurs., July 23 at the Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N. The technical committee will meet at 8:30 am and the consortium will meet at 10:00 am.

### SIEC Members Named

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

In May, Governor Schweitzer finalized 21 appointments to the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC). While several members are included by virtue of their involvement in state government, others were selected to represent specific government and public safety disciplines. Representing county government is returning member Kathy Bessette, Hill County Commissioner, who was selected by the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). Chuck Winn, the Assistant City Manager of Bozeman, also is a returning member; however, previously, he represented a paid fire department. Now, he represents municipal government. Representing a paid fire department for this appointment is Jeff Logan, Battalion Chief with the Missoula Fire Department, while Jodi O'Sullivan, Polson Volunteer Fire Dept., is returning to represent volunteer fire departments.

Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis and Clark County, was named to represent county law enforcement, while Glendive Police Chief and IM Project Directors Chair Alan Michaels was again named to represent municipal law enforcement. New to the SIEC this time is Rick Poss, representing the emergency medical service community. Rick is with the Central Montana Medical Center Ambulance Service in Lewistown. Heather Roos, Dispatch Supervisor and 9-1-1 Coordinator with the Custer-Garfield 9-1-1 Center was

named to represent the 9-1-1 community, while Ed Joiner, Northern Cheyenne DES Coordinator, is the tribal representative.

The SIEC was expanded this year to include two Federal agency representatives. Jodi Camrud, BLM Communications in Billings, and Brenna Neinast, Chief Patrol Agent with the Havre Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, were named to fill those slots.

Dick Clark, Chief Information Officer, ITSD-Dept. of Administration, chairs the SIEC. Other state employees on the SIEC include Larry Fasbender with the Attorney General's office; Mike Ferriter, Department of Corrections; Ken Mesch, Disaster and Emergency Services; Mike Korn, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Sheena Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office; John Grainger, Brands Enforcement Division with the Dept. of Livestock; Lt. Col. Jeff Fisher, Dept. of Military Affairs; Mary Sexton, Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation; Jim DeTienne, Dept. of Public Health and Human Services; and Jim Lynch, Dept. of Transportation.

The SIEC is meeting on Wed., July 15 in Room 152 of the State Capitol from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and the meeting is open to the public.

## Upcoming Meetings

### July 13

IM Finance Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am-noon  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### July 13

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### July 14

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level  
2715 Skyway Drive

### July 15

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Location to be Announced

### July 15

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMICC)  
Livingston • 10:00 am  
Park County Rural Fire Barn  
Corner of C & Park Street

### July 15

Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)  
Helena • 10:00 am-3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 152

### July 16

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber, 1000 George St.